

Freezing and preservation of gametes for 3 years (after services T6660 and T6663). Maximum period of the preservation is 12 years.

Freezing and preservation of gametes – possible to perform before treatment in case of medical indications which may damage fertility (e.g. the treatment of a malignant tumour) or in case the patient wishes to postpone pregnancy to a later stage of life. Radiation and chemotherapy are extremely dangerous for egg cells and may cause permanent infertility. Freezing eggs helps young women to give birth to their own children in the future. Pregnancy is not guaranteed – the likelihood depends on the number and quality of egg cells.

Sperm cell freezing is also used, in addition to medical indications (before the treatment of malignant tumours or severe autoimmune disease), in cases the man does not have the possibility to be present in time for the artificial insemination of the woman (e.g. related to work commitments – sailors, long distance drivers, etc.) or if there is a risk of fertility decrease (dangerous work, military operations, etc.). The man will give the seminal fluid by himself at our centre, in a private room provided for that purpose.

Freezing sperm cells does not affect the effectiveness of artificial insemination and it does not call forth a rise in the frequency of developmental malformation.

Freezing egg cells is preceded by **hormonal stimulation of the ovaries** – the ovaries are stimulated with injected hormonal medication to produce more egg cells than during the regular menstrual cycle – so-called superovulation. The preparation process lasts about 2 weeks, during this time you will visit the gynaecologist 2–3 times to check the effectiveness of the treatment.

Egg cell puncture – the egg cells are extracted from the ovary.

The procedure is usually performed under anaesthesia. The doctor punctures the vaginal wall under ultrasound and aspirates all follicles grown in the ovaries. Puncture lasts 1–2 hours, including waking from anaesthesia. Then the egg cells are frozen by the method of vitrification (rapid freezing).

It is recommended that eggs be frozen before the age of 35.

At our centre, it is possible to freeze **gametes** for a period of 12 years.

- An opportunity for patients (both men and women) who are facing aggressive chemotherapy or radiation in case of malignant tumours.
- Women who wish to postpone pregnancy to a time in which the production of egg cells is likely to have decreased.
- Distance relationships – the timing of the women's procedure does not depend on the physical presence of her partner.

The fertilisation of eggs is necessary with an ICSI method.